Lesson Four: The Present Tense Verb
[اَلْفِعْل اَلْمُضَارِع]

The *present tense verb* (**اَلْفِعْل اَلْمُضَارِع**) describes actions or events that are ongoing.[15] *Present tense verb*s are conjugated using prefixes and suffixes.

PRINCIPLE ONE

The pattern **يَفْعَلُ** (*he does*) is used as a model for the *active* voice of the *present tense verb*. Depending on the particular conjugation, one of four letters (*yā'*, *tā'*, *nūn*, or *hamzah*) is always prefixed to the three base letters (*table 4.1*).

PRINCIPLE TWO

The active voice of the *present tense verb* is conjugated by adding designated letters to the end of the verb. Like the *past tense*, these conjugations reflect three aspects of the verb's subject: person, gender, and plurality. Carefully study *table 4.1*, noting the differences between the various conjugations.

PRINCIPLE THREE

The *present tense verb* may express either the active or the passive voice. The pattern for the *passive* voice of the *present tense verb* is formed from the active voice by (1) changing the voweling of the first letter to a *dammah* and (2) changing the voweling of the second to last letter to a *fathah*.[16] Thus **يَفْعَلُ** (*he does*) becomes **يُفْعَلُ** (*it is being done*).

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[15] The *present tense verb* includes both the continuous present tense (e.g., he is doing) and the habitual present tense (e.g., he does).

[16] This second step is only necessary if the active voice of the *present tense verb* has a *dammah* or a *kasrah* on its second to last letter. Such patterns are covered in *Lesson Sixteen*.

PRINCIPLE FOUR

The designated suffixes used for the active voice of the *present tense verb* are also used for the passive voice. However, the conjugations of the passive voice reflect the person, gender, and plurality of the *object*, and not the *subject*, of the verb. *Table 4.2* illustrates both active and passive conjugations of the *present tense verb*.

PRINCIPLE FIVE

Placing the word " **لاَ** " before both the active and the passive voice conjugations negates the *present tense verb* (*table 4.2*). For example, **يَفْعَلُ** (*he does*) becomes **لاَ يَفْعَلُ** (*he does not do*), and **يُفْعَلُ** (*it is being done*) becomes **لاَ يُفْعَلُ** (*it is not being done*).

PRINCIPLE SIX

The *present tense verb* may also describe a future event or action.[17] For example, **يَفْعَلُ** may be translated as, "he will do." Placing either the letter " **سَ** " or the word " **سَوْفَ** " before active and passive voice conjugations of the *present tense verb* explicitly indicates future meaning (*table 4.3*). For example, **سَيَفْعَلُ** and **سَوْفَ يَفْعَلُ** are both translated as, "he will do."

ESSENTIAL NOTE

The conjugations of the *present tense verb* must be memorized (*table 4.2*) before moving to the next lesson.

[17] Throughout this book, **اَلْفِعْل اَلْمُضَارِع** has been translated as "the *present tense verb*." More accurately, however, this Arabic term refers to the *imperfect* tense. *Imperfect* implies that the actions referred to are not yet complete. Thus, it includes both the present tense, "he does," and the future tense, "he will do."

TABLE 4.1

CONJUGATING THE *PRESENT TENSE VERB*

PERSON GENDER & PLURALITY			SUFFIX		BASE		PREFIX		ACTIVE VOICE
3rd	Masculine	Singular			فعل	+	ي	⇨	يَفْعَلُ He/It (S/M) does
3rd	Masculine	Dual	انِ	+	فعل	+	ي	⇨	يَفْعَلانِ They (D/M) do
3rd	Masculine	Plural	وْنَ	+	فعل	+	ي	⇨	يَفْعَلُوْنَ They (P/M) do
3rd	Feminine	Singular			فعل	+	ت	⇨	تَفْعَلُ She/It (S/F) does
3rd	Feminine	Dual	انِ	+	فعل	+	ت	⇨	تَفْعَلانِ They (D/F) do
3rd	Feminine	Plural	نَ	+	فعل	+	ي	⇨	يَفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) do
2nd	Masculine	Singular			فعل	+	ت	⇨	تَفْعَلُ You (S/M) do
2nd	Masculine	Dual	انِ	+	فعل	+	ت	⇨	تَفْعَلانِ You (D/M) do
2nd	Masculine	Plural	وْنَ	+	فعل	+	ت	⇨	تَفْعَلُوْنَ You (P/M) do
2nd	Feminine	Singular	يْنَ	+	فعل	+	ت	⇨	تَفْعَلِيْنَ You (S/F) do
2nd	Feminine	Dual	انِ	+	فعل	+	ت	⇨	تَفْعَلانِ You (D/F) do
2nd	Feminine	Plural	نَ	+	فعل	+	ت	⇨	تَفْعَلْنَ You (P/F) do
1st	Masculine and Feminine	Singular			فعل	+	أ	⇨	أَفْعَلُ I do
1st	Masculine and Feminine	Plural			فعل	+	ن	⇨	نَفْعَلُ We do

M=Masculine F=Feminine S=Singular D=Dual P=Plural

TABLE 4.2

THE *PRESENT TENSE* VERB

PASSIVE VOICE NEGATION	**ACTIVE VOICE NEGATION**	**PASSIVE VOICE**	**ACTIVE VOICE**
لا يُفْعَلُ He/It (S/M) is not being done	لا يَفْعَلُ He/It (S/M) does not do	يُفْعَلُ He/It (S/M) is being done	يَفْعَلُ He/It (S/M) does
لا يُفْعَلَانِ They (D/M) are not being done	لا يَفْعَلَانِ They (D/M) do not do	يُفْعَلَانِ They (D/M) are being done	يَفْعَلَانِ They (D/M) do
لا يُفْعَلُوْنَ They (P/M) are not being done	لا يَفْعَلُوْنَ They (P/M) do not do	يُفْعَلُوْنَ They (P/M) are being done	يَفْعَلُوْنَ They (P/M) do
لا تُفْعَلُ She/It (S/F) is not being done	لا تَفْعَلُ She/It (S/F) does not do	تُفْعَلُ She/It (S/F) is being done	تَفْعَلُ She/It (S/F) does
لا تُفْعَلَانِ They (D/F) are not being done	لا تَفْعَلَانِ They (D/F) do not do	تُفْعَلَانِ They (D/F) are being done	تَفْعَلَانِ They (D/F) do
لا يُفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) are not being done	لا يَفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) do not do	يُفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) are being done	يَفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) do
لا تُفْعَلُ You (S/M) are not being done	لا تَفْعَلُ You (S/M) do not do	تُفْعَلُ You (S/M) are being done	تَفْعَلُ You (S/M) do
لا تُفْعَلَانِ You (D/M) are not being done	لا تَفْعَلَانِ You (D/M) do not do	تُفْعَلَانِ You (D/M) are being done	تَفْعَلَانِ You (D/M) do
لا تُفْعَلُوْنَ You (P/M) are not being done	لا تَفْعَلُوْنَ You (P/M) do not do	تُفْعَلُوْنَ You (P/M) are being done	تَفْعَلُوْنَ You (P/M) do
لا تُفْعَلِيْنَ You (S/F) are not being done	لا تَفْعَلِيْنَ You (S/F) do not do	تُفْعَلِيْنَ You (S/F) are being done	تَفْعَلِيْنَ You (S/F) do
لا تُفْعَلَانِ You (D/F) are not being done	لا تَفْعَلَانِ You (D/F) do not do	تُفْعَلَانِ You (D/F) are being done	تَفْعَلَانِ You (D/F) do
لا تُفْعَلْنَ You (P/F) are not being done	لا تَفْعَلْنَ You (P/F) do not do	تُفْعَلْنَ You (P/F) are being done	تَفْعَلْنَ You (P/F) do
لا أُفْعَلُ I am not being done	لا أَفْعَلُ I do not do	أُفْعَلُ I am being done	أَفْعَلُ I do
لا نُفْعَلُ We are not being done	لا نَفْعَلُ We do not do	نُفْعَلُ We are being done	نَفْعَلُ We do

M=Masculine F=Feminine S=Singular D=Dual P=Plural

TABLE 4.3

THE FUTURE TENSE

PASSIVE VOICE FUTURE	**ACTIVE VOICE FUTURE**	**PASSIVE VOICE FUTURE**	**ACTIVE VOICE FUTURE**
سَوْفَ يُفْعَلُ He/It (S/M) will be done	سَوْفَ يَفْعَلُ He/It (S/M) will do	سَيُفْعَلُ He/It (S/M) will be done	سَيَفْعَلُ He/It (S/M) will do
سَوْفَ يُفْعَلَانِ They (D/M) will be done	سَوْفَ يَفْعَلَانِ They (D/M) will do	سَيُفْعَلَانِ They (D/M) will be done	سَيَفْعَلَانِ They (D/M) will do
سَوْفَ يُفْعَلُوْنَ They (P/M) will be done	سَوْفَ يَفْعَلُوْنَ They (P/M) will do	سَيُفْعَلُوْنَ They (P/M) will be done	سَيَفْعَلُوْنَ They (P/M) will do
سَوْفَ تُفْعَلُ She/It (S/F) will be done	سَوْفَ تَفْعَلُ She/It (S/F) will do	سَتُفْعَلُ She/It (S/F) will be done	سَتَفْعَلُ She/It (S/F) will do
سَوْفَ تُفْعَلَانِ They (D/F) will be done	سَوْفَ تَفْعَلَانِ They (D/F) will do	سَتُفْعَلَانِ They (D/F) will be done	سَتَفْعَلَانِ They (D/F) will do
سَوْفَ يُفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) will be done	سَوْفَ يَفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) will do	سَيُفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) will be done	سَيَفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) will do
سَوْفَ تُفْعَلُ You (S/M) will be done	سَوْفَ تَفْعَلُ You (S/M) will do	سَتُفْعَلُ You (S/M) will be done	سَتَفْعَلُ You (S/M) will do
سَوْفَ تُفْعَلَانِ You (D/M) will be done	سَوْفَ تَفْعَلَانِ You (D/M) will do	سَتُفْعَلَانِ You (D/M) will be done	سَتَفْعَلَانِ You (D/M) will do
سَوْفَ تُفْعَلُوْنَ You (P/M) will be done	سَوْفَ تَفْعَلُوْنَ You (P/M) will do	سَتُفْعَلُوْنَ You (P/M) will be done	سَتَفْعَلُوْنَ You (P/M) will do
سَوْفَ تُفْعَلِيْنَ You (S/F) will be done	سَوْفَ تَفْعَلِيْنَ You (S/F) will do	سَتُفْعَلِيْنَ You (S/F) will be done	سَتَفْعَلِيْنَ You (S/F) will do
سَوْفَ تُفْعَلَانِ You (D/F) will be done	سَوْفَ تَفْعَلَانِ You (D/F) will do	سَتُفْعَلَانِ You (D/F) will be done	سَتَفْعَلَانِ You (D/F) will do
سَوْفَ تُفْعَلْنَ You (P/F) will be done	سَوْفَ تَفْعَلْنَ You (P/F) will do	سَتُفْعَلْنَ You (P/F) will be done	سَتَفْعَلْنَ You (P/F) will do
سَوْفَ أُفْعَلُ I will be done	سَوْفَ أَفْعَلُ I will do	سَأُفْعَلُ I will be done	سَأَفْعَلُ I will do
سَوْفَ نُفْعَلُ We will be done	سَوْفَ نَفْعَلُ We will do	سَنُفْعَلُ We will be done	سَنَفْعَلُ We will do

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